WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MAY 1994

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

YPSI'S REAL McCoy WILL BE HONORED WITH MARKER

A state historical marker honoring Ypsilanti's famous Black inventor, Elijah McCoy, will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 12, on the lawn of the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue, A.P. Marshall announced.

McCoy invented a time-saving automatic lubrication system for railroad locomotives in 1872. It was soon sought by buyers all over the world who wanted "the Real McCoy," not an imitation. It was the first of his 78 inventions.

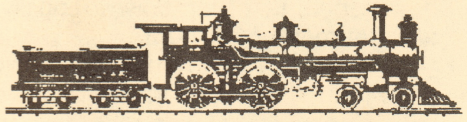
From 1872 to about 1915 nearly all the world's locomotives were equipped with McCoy's sight feed and gravity feed lubricators.

The son of escaped slaves, Elijah grew up in Ypsilanti.

Professor Marshall, retired dean of academic services at Eastern Michigan University, is author of a booklet, "The Real McCoy of Ypsilanti," as well as a book, *Unconquered Souls: The History of the African-American in Ypsilanti.* He is also a member of the WCHS Board of Directors.

The Ypsilanti Rotary Club raised the money for the sign. All are welcome to attend the dedication.

Professor Marshall says Elijah McCoy is not the only McCoy connected with the phrase "real McCoy" in America's past but he is certainly one of them.



ARTIFACTS TO DONATE? CALL COLLECTIONS CHAIR

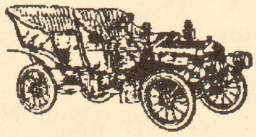
Anyone wishing to donate an artifact or artifacts to WCHS should contact Nancy McKinney, collections chairman, at 665-5171 or by mail, 1104 West Madison, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The Society welcomes donations that fit into our museum's mission and storage space limitations.

ANNUAL WCHS BUS TOUR TO VISIT, DINE AT LAVISH LAWRENCE FISHER MANSION IN DETROIT JUNE 11

One of the founders of Fisher Body Company in Detroit and president of Cadillac Motors, Lawrence Fisher, spent millions of dollars on a magnificent riverfront estate in Detroit in 1927.

The WCHS annual bus tour Saturday, June 11, will visit and have lunch at that lavish restored mansion.

The house is characterized as "a unique blend of Italian Renaissance and vintage Hollywood." It is noted for its ornate stone and marble work, doors and arches, and black walnut and rosewood parquet floors.



More than 75 ounces of pure gold and silver leaf highlight decorative ceilings and moldings. There are European hand crafted stained glass windows and Art Deco tile work.

The house is situated on four acres of formal gardens, pools, fountains with roving peacocks.

It was purchased in 1975 by the unlikely twosome of Alfred Brush Ford, great-grandson of Henry Ford, and Elisabeth Reuther Dickmeyer, daughter of United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther.

Both were inspired by the spiritual teachings of A. C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada and they jointly purchased the estate for the Bhaktivedanta Cultural Center.

Luncheon will be served in the original dining room. The cuisine is described as "gourmet vegetarian." WCHS has chosen an Italian meal with Lasagna Primavera, steamed vegetable, tossed salad with house dressing, homemade rolls and butter and choice of tea or coffee and carrot cake or ice cream.

Tourgoers are to board the bus at 10 a.m. at Maple Village Shopping Center near the bank. The bus is expected to return 3:30-4 p.m. Prepaid reservations, $25 per person, are due Saturday, June 4. *(Use coupon on inside back page.)*

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 18 AT COBBLESTONE FARM BARN FEATURES POTLUCK, BYLAWS, 'WHAT IS IT?' GAME

The annual meeting of the Washtenaw County Historical Society will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, at Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2781 Packard Road.

Officers and directors will be elected and the newly revised bylaws submitted to the membership for adoption. They have been revised and expanded in preparation for operating the museum. All members should have received copies in the mail for their review.

For fun, those attending can try their hand at WCHS's traveling "What is it?" game. The game consists of a collection of small artifacts with humorous multiple choice answers as to what the items are or were used for.

Those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass serving 8-10. Beverages will be provided.

Please enter by the Buhr Park entrance just west of the Cobblestone House and park in the lot behind. Do not park along the house driveway.

WCHS NOMINEES LISTED

Patricia Austin, Susan Wineberg, Judy Chrisman and Patty Creal have been renominated as president, vice-president, recording secretary and treasurer, respectively, for 1994-95.

Pauline Walters, immediate past-president, has been nominated corresponding secretary.

Nominated to three-year terms as directors are Jackie Frank of Chelsea, Lucille Fisher, Joyce Squires and Alice Ziegler. Elizabeth Dusseau and Marge Hepburn of Chelsea, chairman of the nominating committee, are retiring from the board. Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Ziegler agreed to continue. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

LOST ANN ARBOR REVISITED THROUGH CAMERA LENS

"In talking about 'Lost Ann Arbor,' I was thinking about the famous books about cities and their architecture and landmarks such as 'Lost Boston' and 'Lost Chicago,' Wystan Stevens, unofficial Ann Arbor historian, told the April WCHS audience.

"Maybe we need to look at great landmarks of the past and spend a few moments in devotion to them and their wonderful architecture.

"If we do that, we can't omit the Washtenaw County Courthouse which was certainly the root and symbol of Ann Arbor's Victorian past for many decades.

"In fact, that apparently was what was wrong with it--the man who crusaded the most to have it torn down and replaced was our long-time mayor Bill Brown.

He said, "That building was built in the 19th century--'nuff said. That was his argument for destroying it.

"The tower came off in 1948 because people were worried about the effect of all that weight on the structure below. They knocked the rest of it down about six years later. The new building was built around the old.

"I've been told Judge Breakey, our circuit judge, and Luella Smith, the county clerk, were talking in the new building as the old was being demolished and they both had the same thought at the same time--what about the statue of justice up there on the parapet holding the scales?

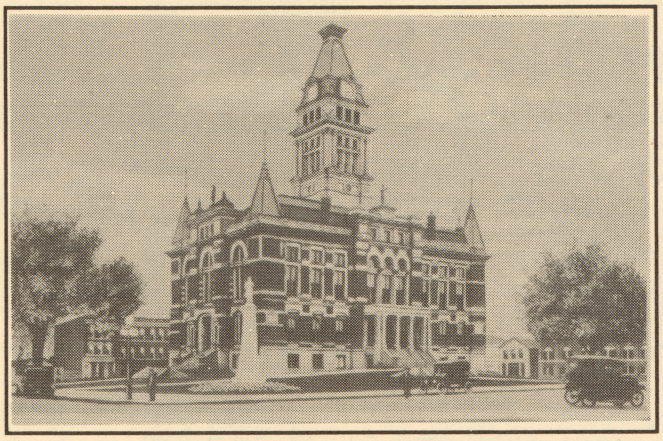
"They both rushed to the window just in time to see the wrecking ball knock the statue off its perch.

"So little attention was paid to preservation that they didn't even save the statues although some of the supervisor's desks have been preserved, I understand.

"The white Civil War soldiers monument, then on the Huron-Main corner, is now in Forest Hill Cemetery. It wasn't erected until 1914--it took us a long time to commemorate that war and the Spanish-American War in 1898.

"The old City Hall, built in 1908, was probably one of the ugliest landmarks we had. It got torn down for the City Center Building at the [southwest] corner of Huron and Fifth Avenue.

"The Elks Home--here is a landmark of an even earlier time on a postcard. This was the home of William S. Maynard, one of the most influential pioneer residents and one of the richest men in town.



Photos courtesy of Wystan Stevens

The old Washtenaw County Courthouse which was replaced in the 1950s with the present county building.

"He was one of the biggest land developers. He opened up much of what is now called the Old West Side and he was a member of the Ann Arbor Land Company that donated the original 40-acre campus to the State of Michigan as an inducement to have a state institution located here.

"They tried at first to get the state capitol but settled for the University of Michigan. State Street remains State Street in any case.

"The Maynard-Elks [and Civic Theater] Home was torn down a few years ago for a new commercial building that hasn't yet got built. It is now a parking lot, fulfilling my favorite definition of a local historian--the person who can tell you what used to stand where the parking lot is now.

"Another monument of some note, the old Masonic Block, was known as the Gregory House hotel when first erected about 1858 in the elaborate Italianate commercial style with all those wonderful, arched windows. It was known as the Municipal Court Building when it was torn down.

"The Masonic parlors were on the top floor. It became the Ann Arbor Savings Bank Building also. It went through many names, sometimes at the same time, depending on which was the most influential tenant.

"A lot of people remember it as the Moray Jewelry Building when it was covered with a checkerboard of blue and white panels.

"Of course the Legal Aid office up in the old Masonic parlors was responsible for leaving a coffee pot on over night which started the fire that consumed the whole building. For ten years or more we had a park on the corner. Now we have the 'One North Main Building.'

"Across the river in Lower Town the Argo Flouring Mill at the place where Broadway meets the bridge over the Huron river was a landmark from the 1820s and '30s although I think the original building burned.

The mill he showed exploded and burned in January 1904 and was replaced by the Argo Substation of Detroit Edison Company.

"It was a spectacular fire. Other pictures show the framework sheathed in ice from the fire hose spray."

"Recently we lost an Allmendinger house, known as the American Legion home, on South Main near the Stadium.

"A classic linen finish postcard from the 1940s" showed the house with a red, white and blue fountain and beautiful flower beds in front.

"The former Arbor Lodge Motel at Washtenaw and Huron Parkway is also part of lost Ann Arbor. It was replaced by a gigantic book store and kitty corner across the street we've lost the Inn America after a visit of only 25 years or so.

"P. Lansky and Sons, scrap dealers, was another landmark [on North Main by the river]. I identify with this because the first job I ever had as a teenager was baling newspapers, rags and aluminum in my uncle's junk yard in Muskegon and I think fondly of the days when you could bundle up your newspapers, take them down to Lansky's and get money for them."

He showed a picture he had taken of a U-M homecoming parade in 1986 or '88, "little thinking I was recording still another soon-to-vanish landmark in the background--the old Salvation Army Thrift Store. The former downtown Kroger Grocery Store , it was built in 1940 and soon enlarged."

"A landmark was torn down on that site in 1935 when the Ann Arbor Times-News wanted to expand and tore down the Beal Block. That was a great loss to Ann Arbor.

"I've been working recently on a study of old fraternity houses, recording where they were and what they looked like.

"The first fraternity building in Ann Arbor was actually the temple or shant of Delta Kappa Epsilon that still stands next to White Market on William Street. It was built in 1878.

"The Psi Upsilon House was built a year later at South University and State Street on what is now the lawn of the Law Quadrangle. A rather ungainly building, it was the first residential building erected for fraternity use. It was enlarged and extensively reconstructed in 1892.

"Right behind the Psi U House, the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity built their house in 1889 at State and Monroe where Hutchins Hall is now. This was a product, I believe, of Koch Brothers Construction Company of Ann Arbor, famous for their stone work. Their best and most famous work, I think, is St. Thomas Catholic Church."

"Both fraternities were torn down when the Law Quad was built. The DKE's built a new house on Geddes, pictured on a hand colored postcard from Ann Arbor's George Wahr Publishing Company. That house burned in 1968. There's a newer structure on the site now.

"Across Monroe Street, looking south from the old DKE house was the Cutting Flat, built, I think, in 1904. It was the largest apartment building in town at the time it was torn down in the early 1960s.

"Some of the richest people in Ann Arbor lived there. It was a prestige address. The Cutting family had a restaurant in there for a while. It is now the site of a parking lot for the Law School.

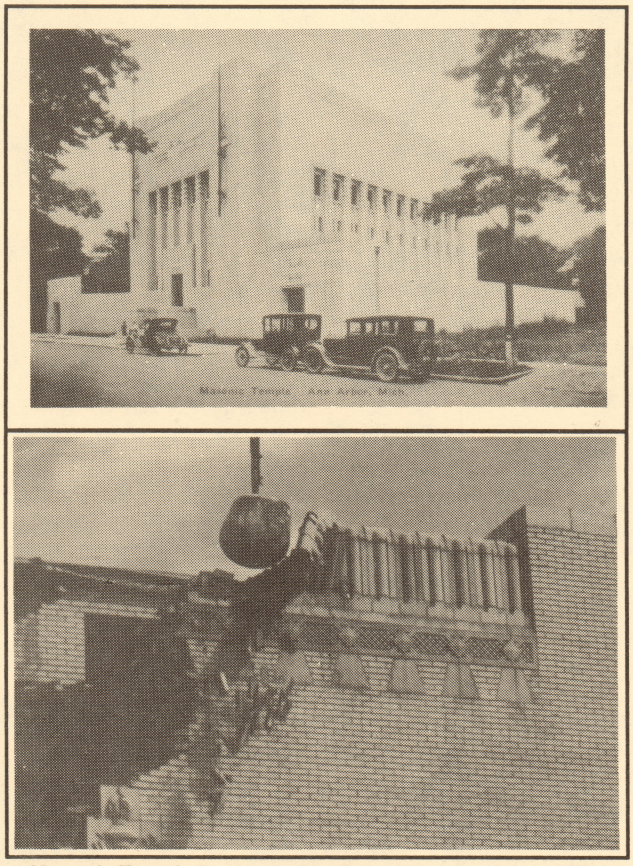
"Across the street from the flat was Beta Theta Phi House, an earlier structure than is there now. The original building was an Italianate cube style residence, enlarged on both sides by the fraternity.

"Then they built that ridiculous classical temple on top and that's the way it looked for a couple of decades.

"Heading north on State Street, we see the Zeta Psi House, built in 1898 or '99. They had been in the Millen house, a landmark building at Washtenaw and Hill, from 1879-1883 and they bought an earlier house on the State Street site in 1890.

"You can see the Classical Revival influence in the triple window and, of course, the very traditional Victorian touch in the cone-shaped turret. The 1898 building was very eclectic.

"Then their neighbors, Alpha Delta Phi, came along. They were formerly in the Winchell octagon house which was located where Hill Auditorium is now. In 1883 they built a house of stone, similar to Zeta Psi. It looked like it should have lasted forever but it got swept away soon after the turn of the century in favor of a more Wrightian design by a disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright. It is at State and Madison."



Masonic Temple (top) stood on Fourth Avenue from 1920s to 1975 when torn down to make way for Federal Building. The temple, built to last, withstood the first few strikes of the wrecker's ball unfazed, but ultimately the ball won (lower picture).

"Next door is the local chapter of Sigma Chi, the fraternity fabled in the song, 'The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.'" He showed the former and present houses.

"The next house north was the Judge Cooley house, facing South University Street. Thomas McIntyre Cooley was Dean of the Law School for many years, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and first chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The original Michigan Union met in Judge Cooley's house. The Union now, of course, occupies several original lots. Next north of Cooley's was the home of Elihu Pond, editor of *The Ann Arbor Argus* newspaper.

"Pond had two sons, Irving K. Pond and Allen Bartlett Pond, who, because of their initials, were known as Ikey and Abey. The brothers became partners in an architectural firm in Chicago and were later called back to Ann Arbor for many projects.

"They designed the first Ann Arbor YMCA Building, which still stands on North Fourth Avenue, and the Ladies Library Association building on Huron Street where the Michigan Bell Telephone Building is now.

"They designed the Michigan Union Building on the site of their boyhood home. Because the ladies, ten years later, wanted equality they not only got a building but they had it designed by the same architects. That's how the Michigan League came to look so similar to the Union in its Collegiate Gothic trappings.

"An early issue of Life Magazine showed I. K. Pond celebrating his 80th birthday by turning a back flip. He had written a book about the art of the somersault according to the caption. He was one of our first physical fitness nuts.

"North of the Pond house were three other houses before one came to Jefferson Street which came all the way to State in those days, before the 'salmon loaf,' the original Administration Building, now L.S. & A. Building was put up in 1948."

Showing another view of the Cooley house, he noted that "it is believed to be the work of Architect Gordon W. Lloyd."

"A few lots north on State Street, Newberry Hall was erected as the home of the Students' Christian Association. Later, when Lane Hall was built, the students moved up there and this soon became Kelsey Museum of Archeology. I understand it's just about stripped bare now during remodeling.

"Male students of the University had many fund raising activities for their expanded club. One was the annual Michigan Union Circus."

He showed the circus advertised by a parade on State Street and pointed out the street car tracks.

Visible at upper left was the First Congregational Church and Greek Revival house which was then a cleaning and pressing establishment called "The Valet."

"The proprietor was George Jewett, the first Black man to play football for the University of Michigan around 1890. He also had a brief career at Northwestern.

"He came back to Ann Arbor and opened his business. He was doing fine but apparently he had a weak heart. Having been an athlete, he didn't realize it. One day in 1908 he keeled over while he was working there and died. He was the grandfather of Coleman Jewett of Ann Arbor."

From the commercial area on State Street, Wystan showed interior shots of Calkins Pharmacy, later known as Calkins-Fletcher Drug Store. "Ypsi representatives will recognize this post card came from M. B. Stadtmiller, a judge in Ypsilanti."

The pharmacy had a soda fountain in the background and a row of glass top tables full of sample confections to tempt customers, he said. The tables had seats that swiveled out.

A view before Nickels Arcade was built showed Nickels Meat Market, a tailor shop and an empty lot in that space.

In the foreground of the post card, the Michigan Agricultural College marching band was celebrating a victory over the U-M at Ferry Field on a football Saturday as they were marching up State Street to the depot to leave town. The post card photo was taken by a photographer from East Lansing and the cards were originally sold there.

"A lot of the commercial buildings in the photo are still there. Some of the pressed metal fronts got burned out. Where the Wahr's Bookstore sign is is now the Red Hawk Grill."

In an 1860 scene, the original Quarry Drug Store could be seen at the [northeast] corner of State and North University. "J. J. Quarry later moved his store across the street to one of the pressed metal fronts. About 1940, the Kresge Store was built on the corner."

"Heading north past the commercial district, we see houses on the right and, beyond, old Ann Arbor High School across from the old Methodist Church.

"The Presbyterian Church received the gift of the old Ezra Seeman house at the [southwest] corner of State and Huron and decided it would be a good idea to have a building for students attending the University.

"Judge Seeman had been a leader in intellectual circles in the city, apart from the University. He was editor of *The Ann Arbor Journal*, a weekly newspaper, and he was also an organizer of the Ann Arbor Philosophical Society or something like that.

Old City Hall, built in 1908 on the southwest corner of Huron and Fifth Avenue, was replaced by the City Center Building.

FARMERS' & MECHANICS' BANK'S LAST DEPOSIT

"We lost the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank on the night of August 5, 1927, back when street cars traveled Ann Arbor Streets on rails in the middle of the street," Wystan Stevens related

"A loaded freight car broke loose from its moorings up by what is now Veterans Park, the old Fair Grounds, came rolling down Jackson to Huron, gained momentum and was thundering up hill on Huron.

"Its lone occupant was thrown off with some injuries. There was nobody to turn the sharp right hand corner onto Main so it took an oblique angle.

"In the words of the newspaper the next day, it became the largest and last deposit at the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank. The bank was a total loss. It got rebuilt later that year."

"His daughter, Louisa Sackett, left the house to the Michigan Presbyterian organization. They enlarged the quarters by building McMillan Hall, facing State Street, behind the house."

About 1935 the Presbyterians decided to build a new church out on Washtenaw. The *Ann Arbor News* took over the old site at Huron and Division.

"The local Presbyterians arranged with the state association to have a student wing in the new church and the Methodist Church took over the former Presbyterian property.

"The Methodist Church apparently was about ready to fall down, so they were glad to get this land. They built a new church in the middle of the block, set back from the street. The old structures were where the church lawn is today.

"The old Seeman house was a rather lovely example of Classical Revival architecture, very elaborate. The oak tree along Huron in the front yard is featured in a photograph in Lela Duff's book, *Ann Arbor Yesterdays*, as being a representative of the original burr oaks that gave Ann Arbor the 'Arbor' part of its name.

"The Methodists sawed it down a few years ago and got people mad at the church but they were afraid it might fall over."

He showed some more views of the State Street commercial district. He noted the Quarry was around until about ten or fifteen years ago when Richardsons took over.

The old Foster Art Store building is still there as part of Jason's Ice Cream parlor today. Jason's was once Goodyear's on State Street and B. E. French. Chubb's Boarding House was next door north.

"The Goodrich house, the old Municipal League Building, was lost in 1971. It happened just before we got the landmark protection ordinance through.

"It was torn down. Well, actually it's still there--it just got rearranged. The same bricks were used in building the fast food restaurant known first as Gino's, now Olga's.

"The old Ann Arbor Union School [State Street at Huron] was built in 1856 with a big addition to the north with a tower on the corner from about 1889. The whole thing burned down on the last day of 1904.

"Earlier the same year, the Argo flour mill had exploded and burned. Also that year, the Ann Arbor Railroad lost a train by it falling off a trestle over the Huron River.

"The commercial structures across the street from the mill site got torn down when the University Motel was built. Behind them, where the Edison shops are now, was where the Ann Arbor Agricultural Company manufactured rather simple farm machinery.

"Then there is something we don't want to talk about, especially with visitors from Ypsilanti present. That was the slaughter houses that lined the

banks of the Huron River in the area now known as Riverside Park.

"It was very handy. Everything you wanted to keep got loaded on a wagon and taken over to Wall Street and downtown. Everything you didn't want got thrown in the river.

"Here's another example of lost Ann Arbor--the old Wall Street bridge collapsed August 6, 1909, while a woman was riding across in a horse-drawn buggy. She survived, badly injured. The horse, I believe, was killed. Part of the buggy can be seen in the wreckage.

"Many small, old houses were demolished where Riverside Park Place apartments are now.

"We lost Jefferson Apartments across from the Student Activities Building in the 1960s. The U-M Administration Building and the Cube are there now."

"Another apartment building at Thompson and William was torn down, I think, in 1964. The Maynard high rise had just been built a couple of years earlier. There was a Texaco gas station on the corner that is now a restaurant.

"Right on the corner where Tower Plaza rises 26 stories today, there was an Italianate house, then Red's Rite Spot, Gold Bond Cleaners, a Greek Revival house and St. Mary's Catholic Student Chapel.

"Red's had the best chili ever in Ann Arbor. They had quite a whing-ding at Red's when it came time to say goodbye.

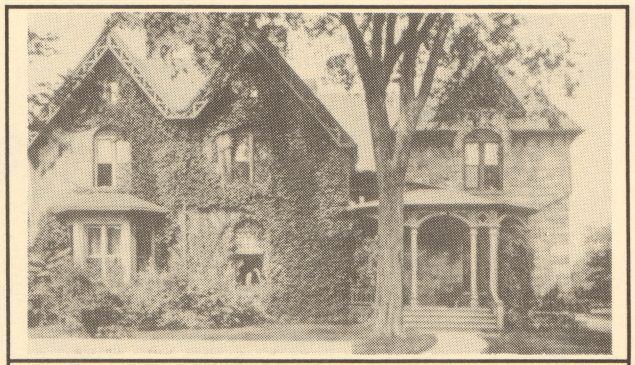
"Looking north on Maynard Street, you could see Nickels Arcade, the School of Music, which wasn't originally part of the University, and Ann Arbor Press. The school was demolished about 1965. The Press came down for a big Jacobson's expansion.

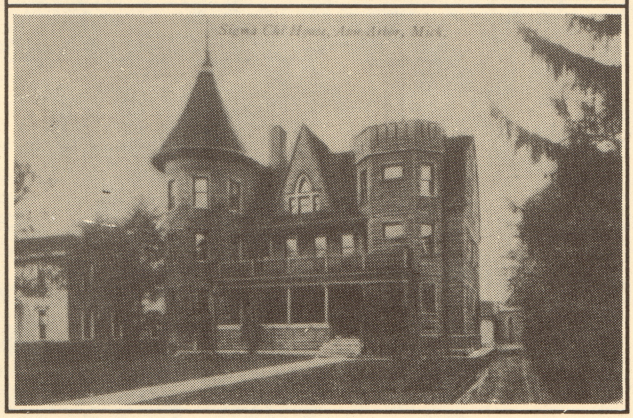
"At South University and Forest, we lost the old Lombard Drug Store on the corner and the old house where Miller's Ice Cream store was. University Towers replaced these.

"What set the whole chain off in 1962 was the loss of the Muehlig house on Main Street."

He showed several post card scenes of Main Street at various times. He pointed out Mack & Company, once the largest department store in Washtenaw County. Another view showed all the parapets lost under the emergency cornice ordinance of the 1930s and '40s.

"Almost every postcard of downtown shows a bright yellow street car in it. They ran on tracks in the middle of the street. That meant that people who wanted to get on waited in the middle of the street.





The U-M Michigan Union first met in the former Judge Cooley house (top) on present site of the Union. Old Sigma Chi Fraternity house on State Street (below).

"When automobile traffic started to get a little heavier, that wasn't a good idea. Streetcars were phased out in the 1920s.

"Hoags home Supply Store was replaced by the First National Bank building at Washington and Main in 1929.

"Moving a couple of blocks further north on Main, the old post office on Ann Street was replaced by the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

"The Argus newspaper building had stood where our first skyscraper, the Glazier Building, was erected at Huron and Main [now Society Bank].

"Across Main Street from the Courthouse, at Ann Street was the old Whitney Hotel and Whitney Theater. The theater had been built as Hill's Opera House about 1871. It briefly became the Athens theater.

"Then B. C Whitney came to Detroit, bought it and put it in his circuit. It remained the Whitney Theater even after it stopped being legitimate theater and was showing 'B' movies for years.

"The hotel Whitney became the Milner Hotel, named for Earle Milner, a local man who started a hotel chain. The Earle Hotel, also in town, was named for him. It was previously the American House.

"The famous actors and actresses who arrived in Ann Arbor back when this was a legitimate theater entered by a stage entrance off Ann Street where their comings and goings were supervised by the inmates of the County Jail who whistled and booed when they thought it appropriate.

"The Whitney was torn down about 1954.

"One of the earliest elevators I can recall was the little creaky thing in the front window of Behnke Furniture Company at Main and Liberty where Dom Doughnuts is now. It was all exposed. B. E. Muehlig's had an enclosed elevator. Those old elevators were person operated--you had to have someone operate it for you.

"Looking east on Huron Street from Main you can see in the background the Allenel Hotel, formerly the Cook House, about the earliest hotel we had [site of presently empty Ann Arbor Inn].

"You can see how the streetcar tracks curved from Main in front of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank to go out Huron Street.

"All those little store fronts you see between the bank and the hotel--incredibly there were about nine or ten--all vanished. Now all you have is a bank, a parking lot and a hotel in that block of Huron.

"Looking east from Main on Washington, there's the end of the bank building, the alley and three structures demolished for a parking structure after the Allenel Hotel was torn down in 1964-65. The best known was the Capitol Market.

"On the south side of Washington was Sam's Store and Deluxe Bakery on the corner of Fourth Avenue. Looking east, old Zion Lutheran Church is gone, demolished in the 1960s for Huron Valley Bank [now Comerica], and some houses that were replaced by Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

"On Division Street, the old vestry building of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was torn down in 1949 when an office wing replaced it. Across Division was Elisha Jones School, replaced in the 1920s with a new Jones School, now Community High."

He showed a picture of the old school buildings behind St. Thomas Catholic Church which have been replaced. Just down State Street at Fuller was once the Park Hotel, conveniently near the Michigan Central Depot.

"The hotel had a saloon in it that irritated Carrie Nation when she came to town. She didn't like the picture of the naked lady over the bar and threatened to smash a few things.

"Later, she was lecturing from a wagon at State Street and North University. Somebody handed her something that looked like a beer bottle and she smashed it with her hatchet.

"She lost her crowd immediately. It turned out it was full of something that smelled like rotten eggs. A chemistry student had handed it to her to disrupt her lecture."

BOARDING HOUSE KEEPER NEVER RAN OUT OF SPUDS

Before dormitories and ubiquitous apartment buildings, students usually roomed in a home and took their meals at a boarding house.

One of these was Prettyman's Boarding House on Fletcher where the Kellogg Center of the Dental School is now," Stevens said.

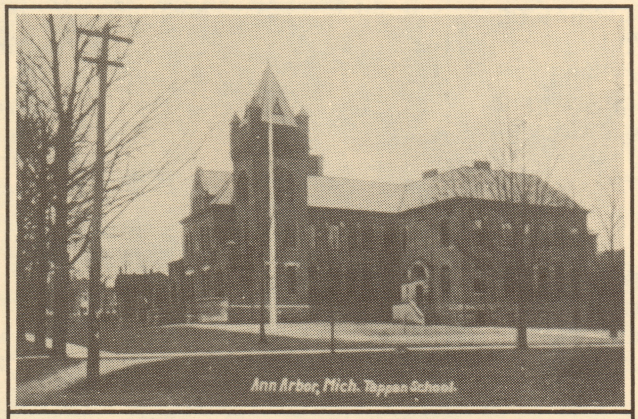
"Prettyman ran a boarding house for several decades in an Italianate house with a French Second Empire mansard roof. Prettyman added a wraparound porch."

"What people didn't realize, looking at the porch, was that its footings went down about 12 feet. He had cold storage down there for two box car loads of potatoes which he ordered every fall. He completely filled the vault under his porch."

"He got enough potatoes to last him a year and he saved a lot of money over the prices people would be charging at the end of the season. In fact, he supplied potatoes to some of the grocery stores before the year was out."

"The Park Hotel Saloon led to Ann Arbor's famous dry line ordinance. It was too near campus so it was put out of business. That ordinance was enforced into the 1960s.

Old Tappan School stood across South University from the original U-M campus. It became East Hall when the University took it over and it was later



First of three Tappan Schools (above), this one stood where U-M Physics and Astromony Building is today. Wall Street bridge (below) collapsed August 6, 1909.

replaced by the Physics and Astronomy Building.

"A new Tappan School was built in Burns Park. That school changed its name to Burns Park School when yet another Tappan School was built on Stadium Boulevard.

"Adjacent to the original Tappan School was a branch of the Ann Arbor Fire Department.

The original Memorial Christian Church looked pretty much like the one now but it was located across the street from the original campus. The University moved it, free of charge, when the Law Quad was built.

"The building had to be deconstructed and reassembled in reverse so that the tower could still be on the corner at Hill and Tappan.

A picture of the old Ann Arbor Public Library on Huron which was attached to old Ann Arbor High School [Frieze Building] showed Huron as a dirt street.

East of it some homes and fraternity houses in a two block area were torn down for the Rackham building, built in 1938.

He showed a postcard view of the University Power Plant and noted that Washington then ran to Washtenaw under a bridge. The University used to have a miniature train that came from the railroad up past the hospitals, across Huron near Glen and over this trestle to deliver coal to the power plant. One day in the 1940s the train fell off the trestle.

A 1904 view showed footings in place for the Dental School that was torn down 15 or 20 years ago. Next to it was Prettyman's Boarding House [now Kellogg Center of the Dental School].

Stevens completed his survey with a series of photos of the buildings demolished in 1975 to make way for the Federal Building on Liberty between Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

They included the old yellow brick Varsity Laundry at Liberty and Fifth, Eberbach Pharmaceutical Company at Liberty and Fourth, the Masonic Temple on Fourth and a former private hospital on Fifth as well as some other houses.

The hospital, in a former private home, had been run by Dr. Cyrenus G. Darling. Later it was Maplehurst Hospital and then Dr. Gates's Hospital. Dr. Darling was mayor of Ann Arbor around the turn of the century.

The hospital had an interesting turret on it and a tubular fire escape popular in the early 20th century. A similar fire escape was attached to North Hall, the former Homeopathic Hospital on campus, for many years.

"The white brick Masonic Temple was built 1922-24 to the design of Professor J. J. Albert Rousseau, a French Canadian member of the School of Architecture faculty. He also designed St. Mary's Catholic Student Chapel with white brick.

"As time went by, Masonic membership dwindled and the building became a white elephant. Several floors were rented out for other purposes. Bendix rented some of it in the 1950s. The Eberbach building from 1908 was last to go. It was the first poured concrete building in Washtenaw County.

"The Eberbach business was founded by Christian Eberbach, a German immigrant who became Americanized. He was mayor of Ann Arbor, active in Civic affairs and was chairman of the Michigan Pharmaceutical Association as was his son. He was the inventor of

chemical and pharmaceutical apparatus and manufacturer of scientific equipment for use in schools and colleges.

"Gerald Ford was president at the time of the Federal Building groundbreaking ceremonies but the cornerstone was about the last thing they put on the building and it has Jimmy Carter's name on it."

CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand lettered certificates are offered, free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations (businesses, churches, schools, etc.) for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

STAINED GLASS CENSUS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Michigan State University Museum is seeking volunteer census takers for the Michigan Stained Glass Census. The museum will maintain a computerized archive and the census results will be entered into the national census which has been underway since 1979.

For more information telephone (517) 355-2370 or write: Michigan Stained Glass Census, Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, MI 48824-1045.

HOW TO JOIN

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, c/o Patty Creal, treasurer, 2655 Esch Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

Annual dues are: individual, $15; couple/family, $25; student or senior (60+), $10; senior couple (one 60+), $19; business/association, $50; patron, $100. Information: 662-9092.

GENEALOGISTS TO HEAR ABOUT MIGRATION ROUTES

Carol Ring, past president of Oakland County Genealogical Society, will talk about "A Good Time To Go" about early migration patterns at the Genealogy Society meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22 at Washtenaw Community College. Afterward, a panel of local librarians will give information about local historical libraries.

The event will begin with the annual meeting and election of officers.

HISTORY HAPPENINGS INVOLVE DRUG STORE, PHONE EXCHANGE, CARILLON, WORDEN, YARD SALE, PICNIC

Chelsea Historical Society: A program about the old Chelsea Drug Store will be given at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 9, at the Chelsea Retirement Community, 805 West Middle Street.

Dexter Society: The Museum at 3443 Inverness will begin summer season hours of 1-3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays in late May. Information: 426-2519.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday, at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. "Manchester Then and Now--The Downtown" will be Glen Lehr's topic May 17. Also, Rose Jacobs Winwright will talk about "Childhood in the Country, Early History of the School District and The Jacobs Road Properties." Both are long time residents.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday. field trip, May 18, to the Novak's Stony Creek Telephone Exchange. The Novaks have a large collection of old time telephones on display at their home. They answer their phone, "Stony Creek Telephone Exchange."

Pittsfield Society: No meeting until 2 p.m. Sunday, August 7, at Pittsfield Town hall.

Salem Society: To meet 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26, at the Burton Memorial Tower on the University of Michigan campus. Professor Margo Halsted, U-M Carilloneur, will demonstrate playing and tell about the history of the bells.

The Society is gathering historical pictures and materials about Worden for a Flag Day exhibit Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, at the township hall.

Worden, at Pontiac Trail and Five Mile Road, once had a store, dairy, train stop, telephone company, school and church. It was damaged by a tornado in June 1917.

Ypsilanti Society: The Society is seeking donations for its yard sale Saturday, June 4. Museum guides will be honored at an appreciation luncheon Wednesday, June 8 at the Ladies Literary Club. Society members plan a potluck picnic in the museum yard Sunday, July 17.

The museum, 220 North Huron Street, is open 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

KEMPF HOUSE LECTURE GARDEN PARTY PLANNED

The last brown bag luncheon of the season will feature Michele Smay talking about "Timber Frame Houses: Which Ones and How To," at noon, Wednesday, May 18, at Kempf House, 312 South Division, which itself is timber framed. Dollar admission includes beverage.

Kempf House is asking volunteers to help with spring cleaning from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 4. Lunch will be provided. They ask you to call 994-4898 by June 3 if you plan to help.

They plan an open house and garden party 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 12 to celebrate completion of refurbishing work.

WCHS BUS TOUR TO FISHER MANSION, DETROIT
Saturday, June 11, 1994

Please make reservations for ____ persons at $25 each. Total enclosed: $ _____.

Reservations due Saturday, June 4. Send check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society, to:

Patricia Austin
1931 Coronada Dr. • Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please list name(s) as you wish them to appear on name tags.

KAREN'S COLUMN

IF YOU'VE BEEN PLANT SITTING WALL STREET FLORA NOW'S THE TIME TO REPLANT ORIGINAL PLANTS BY HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making our latest fund raiser, STAGE DOOR CANTEEN--FIFTY YEARS LATER, such a success. That includes Gail Bauer, chairman, and her committee: Pat Austin, Susan Wineberg, Deborah Hildebrandt, Joanne Rebeck, Maya Savarino, Merilyn Goetz and Jeannette Brock.

It also includes all of YOU who supported the Society and the Museum by attending. Everyone who came "dressed as the forties" or in a Service uniform added immensely to the festivities. It was a great party. We all had a good time plus we raised some money toward the museum restoration. (We hope to have the final report at the annual meeting.)

Suddenly, Spring has arrived. The Garden Committee, ably led by Anne Benninghoff, is making plans to enhance the museum grounds. They have some ideas for furthering the 1880-1900s garden plan.

Soon the lilac which grew beside the house on Wall Street will return, to be planted next to the house once more. This lilac has been waiting in the City Forester's nursery until such time as it could be replanted.

Society members dug some of the other plant material around the house, keeping it in their own yards until it could be installed on Main Street, once again in proximity to the house.

If you are one of those who were "baby-sitting" plants until the landscaping was ready at the Museum, now is the time to contact WCHS or myself.

I would like to put in a plea for a volunteer painter or two. We need to get a prime coat and a finish coat of opaque stain on the back of our screen fence.

We were not able to paint it last year because of the proximity of bushes on the neighboring property. The bushes are now trimmed back, making this the appropriate moment for painting, before it all grows up again!

The exterior stairwell also needs painting. Neither job is overwhelming, both are necessary. We can provide you with paint, brushes, water, snacks and endless gratitude, if you have always wanted to play Tom Sawyer! Please call me or WCHS to volunteer.

Nothing more has been done toward the installation of the mechanical systems on the Museum's interior. Though we have had several nice offers of help with parts and pieces of it, we are still short of the total amount of money we need to have in hand before we can begin. Once the loose ends come together, we'll be over a major hurdle.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

FOUR GARDENS FEATURED ON WALK JUNE 18

The Ann Arbor Farm and Garden Association Garden Walk will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 18. In case of severe weather, it will be June 19.

WCHS members may remember that our Museum on Main Street received $7,000 from the first garden walk in 1991 toward landscaping the Museum. This year's walk will benefit Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

This year's gardens are characterized as "A Country Garden in Progress," on Warren Road; "A Delightful Garden Devoted to Roses," on Briarcliff near Nixon Road; "A Sophisticated Collection of Many Varieties of Perennials," on Dobson Place near Glazier Way; and "Ten Acres of Rare Conifers, Trees and Shrubs" on Geddes near Gale Road.

Tickets are $8 per person or two for $15. Ticket information: 663-2339.

'WHAT IS IT?' GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts, set up as a humorous "What is it? game to schools for children and another for adults. They are available for classes and meetings, subject to volunteer availability. For information call Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

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Published September-May, except December, January.
WCHS Office: (313) 662-9092

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

6:30 P.M. • WEDNESDAY MAY 18, 1995

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

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